

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A method comprising:

generating an asset record in a management system database when an order for  
3 components of an asset corresponding to said asset record are ordered; and  
4 tagging said asset when deployable with an asset identification (ID), said asset ID  
5 uniquely referring to said asset record.

1 2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising:

2 generating a purchase order for said components, said purchase order having  
3 characteristics of said asset that could be associated with said asset record in said  
4 database.

1 3. A method according to claim 2 wherein generating includes:

2 determining if an existing asset template can be used in generating said purchase  
3 order;

4 if an existing asset template cannot be used, then creating a new asset template for  
5 said asset; and

6 utilizing one of said existing asset template and new asset template in said  
7 generating said purchase order.

1 4. A method according to claim 2 further comprising:

2 transmitting said purchase order to a supplier;

3 waiting for ordered components to be received; and

4 if any ordered components are received, then reading information related to said  
5 received components from the packages containing said received components.

1        5. A method according to claim 4 further comprising:  
2                storing said information into said management database.

1        6. A method according to claim 4 further comprising:  
2                determining if said received components are sufficient for an asset to be classified  
3                as deployable.

1        7. A method according to claim 6 wherein determining includes:  
2                if said asset requires assembly, determining whether all components for assembly  
3                of an asset have been received; and  
4                if said asset requires assembly, and if all components have not been received, then  
5                placing said received components in storage.

1        8. A method according to claim 7 wherein if said asset requires assembly,  
2                and if all components have been received, then assembling said received components  
3                such that it constitutes a deployable asset.

1        9. A method according to claim 1 wherein tagging includes:  
2                generating said asset ID as a unique identification within a designated area  
3                containing many different assets.

1        10. A method according to claim 1 wherein said tagging further includes  
2                generating a sticker incorporating said asset ID therein; and  
3                affixing said sticker to said deployable asset.

1        11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said sticker is a bar-code  
2                readable sticker.

1        12. A method according to claim 1 further comprising:  
2        updating the state in said asset management database of said asset to 'deployable'.

1        13. A method according to claim 9 wherein said designated area is in part or in  
2        whole a data center.

1        14. A method according to claim 1 wherein configuration information for said  
2        asset is stored in its asset record.

1        15. A system comprising:  
2              a management system database configured to store an asset record when an order  
3              for components of an asset corresponding to said asset record are ordered, said asset  
4              record indexed by a unique asset identification (ID), said asset ID uniquely referring to  
5              said asset within a facility; and  
6              a connection mechanism coupling said management system database to various  
7              nodes located in said facility, and coupling said management system database to an  
8              inventory database;

✓        1        16. A system according to claim 15 wherein said facility is a data center.

✓        1        17. A system according to claim 15 wherein said connection mechanism  
2        includes network connectivity.

✓        1        18. A system according to claim 15 wherein said asset record includes  
2        configuration information regarding said asset.

✓ 1        19. A system according to claim 15 wherein said asset record includes  
— 2 purchase order information regarding said components of said asset.

*cl 17* 1        20. A system according to claim 15 wherein said asset record includes state  
2 information regarding said asset.

✓ 1        21. A system according to claim 15 wherein said asset is tagged with a sticker  
2 containing said asset ID.

*Some*  
*1 -* 1        22. An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions  
2 stored thereon which when executed cause:  
3              generating an asset record in a management system database when an order for  
4 components of an asset corresponding to said asset record are ordered; and  
5              tagging said asset when deployable with an asset identification (ID), said asset ID  
uniquely referring to said asset record.

*A*  
*long list* 1        23. An article according to claim 22 which further causes:  
2              generating a purchase order for said components, said purchase order having  
3 characteristics of said asset that could be associated with said asset record in said  
4 database.

1        24. An article according to claim 23 wherein generating includes:  
2              determining if an existing asset template can be used in generating said purchase  
3 order;  
4              if an existing asset template cannot be used, then creating a new asset template for  
5 said asset; and

6           utilizing one of said existing asset template and new asset template in said  
7   generating said purchase order.

1       25. An article according to claim 22 which further causes:  
2           transmitting said purchase order to a supplier;  
3           waiting for ordered components to be received; and  
4           if any ordered components are received, then reading information related to said  
5   received components from the packages containing said received components.

1       26. An article according to claim 25 which further causes:  
2           storing said information into said management database.

1       27. An article according to claim 25 which further causes:  
2           determining if said received components are sufficient for an asset to be classified  
3           as deployable.

1       28. An article according to claim 27 wherein determining includes:  
2           if said asset requires assembly, determining whether all components for assembly  
3           of an asset have been received; and  
4           if said asset requires assembly, and if all components have not been received, then  
5           placing said received components in storage.

1       29. An article according to claim 28 wherein if said asset requires assembly,  
2           and if all components have been received, then assembling said received components  
3           such that it constitutes a deployable asset.

- 1        30. An article according to claim 22 wherein tagging includes:  
2            generating said asset ID as a unique identification within a designated area  
3            containing many different assets.

- an*  
*cont'd*  
1        31. An article according to claim 30 wherein said tagging further includes:  
2            generating a sticker incorporating said asset ID therein; and  
3            affixing said sticker to said deployable asset.

